

ROUTINE

ACTION

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RELEASED IN PARINGOMING

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ARA/NEA REARCS

600VLO R 235

PAGE 01 OF 02 CARACA 01037 00 OF 02 061931Z 07565J 507956J
ACTION: VE (02)

CARACA 01037 00 OF 02 061931Z 07565J 507956J

INFO: DAND (01) PJ (01) PDAS (01) MM (01) ARA (01) PFC (01) CAS (01)
PPA (01) EPSC (01) DEPSC (01) CO (01) PE (01) DI (01) EC (01)
----- D7/1052Z A1 RD TOTAL COPIES: 020

ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ACUA-05 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOEE-00 SRPP-00
DS-00 H-01 IEDE-00 INR-00 IAB-01 L-00 ADS-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 OPIC-01 PA-00 PM-00 PFS-00
P-00 CIO-00 SCT-00 SP-00 TRSE-00 T-00 PMB-00
DSCC-00 DRL-04 G-00 SAS-00 /01SW

-----303866 061932Z /J6

R 061932Z APP 98
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC P:98
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
USIA WASHDC 1517
BIA WASHDC

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, M. GRAFELD, DAS, A/GIS, ACTING

REVIEW AUTHORITY: ADOLPH H EISNER

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)

DECLASSIFY AFTER: 4 APR 2023

DATE/CASE ID: 14 JUN 2010 200503654

CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 001037

E.O. 12958: DECL: J/J0/01

TAGS: PGOV, VE

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH

B1, B6

REF: (A) CARACAS 275, (B) 92 CARACAS 2296

CLASSIFIED BY REASON 1.5 (D) B6

SUMMARY

B1, B6

THAT SAEZ REMAINS THE STRONGEST CANDIDATE IN A CROWDED CONTEST IN WHICH 30 PERCENT OF THE VOTE WILL BE ENOUGH TO WIN. AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT THE U.S. INTEREST IN THE ELECTION IS THAT THE PROCESS BE FAIR AND TRANSPARENT. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) NOTE: LCR (LA CAUSA R), A NEW LEFT MOVEMENT, MADE A VERY STRONG SHOWING IN THE 1993 PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS, SNAKING UP THE TRADITIONAL TWO-PARTY SYSTEM. ITS FORTUNES FLAGGED, HOWEVER, IN THE 1995 STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS, CAUSING THE DIVERGENT VIEWS OF PARTY LEADERS ANDRES VELASQUEZ AND PABLO MEDINA TO BECOME IRRECONCILABLE. VELASQUEZ HAD BEEN MOVING LCR TOWARD THE POLITICAL CENTER, WHILE MEDINA FAVORED ORTHODOX LEFTIST POSITIONS WITH REGARD TO PRIVATIZATION, FOREIGN DEBT, ETC. MEDINA FORMED A NEW PARTY CALLED HOMELAND FOR ALL (PPT), SOME OF WHOSE MEMBERS SOON LEFT TO JOIN HUGO CHAVEZ'S MOVEMENT. PPT AS A WHOLE IS LEANING TOWARD CHAVEZ, AND LCR HAS FORMED AN ALLIANCE WITH IRENE SAEZ.

DEPUTY, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MARCH 20 TO DISCUSS THE ELECTION IN GENERAL

B6

B1

AMBASSADOR REITERATED U.S. POLICY TO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AND THE ELECTORAL PROCESS BUT TO REMAIN STRICTLY NEUTRAL AS TO CANDIDATES AND PARTIES.

REF: (A) CARACAS 275, (B) 97 CARACAS 2298

AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT THE U.S. INTEREST IN THE ELECTION IS THAT THE PROCESS BE FAIR AND TRANSPARENT.

B1, B6

COMMENT

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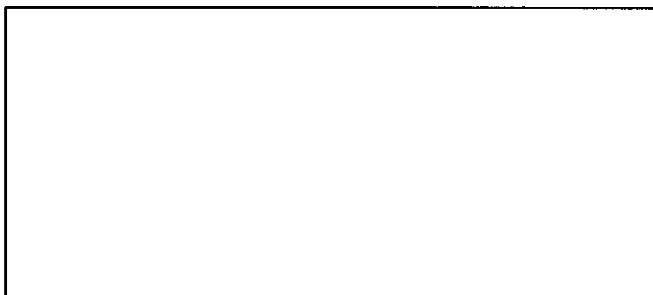
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B1

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